

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 STR-04

OMB-01 TRSE-00 IGA-01 /090 W
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R 082218Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1256

INFO AMCONSUL CALI

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L 9745

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CO

SUBJECT: LOPEZ REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON U.S. VISIT

1. PRESIDENT LOPEZ ON OCT 7 SUBMITTED A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE COLOMBIAN CONGRESS, COVERING HIS SEPTEMBER VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

(TEST POUCHED BY AIRGRAM).

2. THE PRESIDENT TOLD THE CONGRESS THAT HE HAD, DURING HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON, ADDRESSED A NUMBER OF MATTERS, INCLUDING:

A) QUITA SUENO TREATY; LOPEZ SAID THAT HE HAD URGED RATIFICATION BY THE U.S. SENATE OF THE 1972 TREATY, SO AS TO PUT AN END TO THE "MODUS VIVENDI" THAT HAS APPLIED SINCE THE OLAYA HERRERA AGREEMENT OF 1928. LOPEZ ALSO RELATED SOME OF THE POINTS THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS HAD MADE IN HIS APPEARANCE BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

B) DARIEN GAP: LOPEZ TOLD THE CONGRESS THAT HE HAD RAISED THE DARIEN GAP QUESTION AND THAT THE AGRICULTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER

OF BOTH NATIONS HAD ALSO DISCUSSED THE MATTER. HE REVIEWED THE AFTOSA PROBLEM AND NOTED THAT WHILE NO FIRM TIMETABLE FOR

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NOW EXISTS, HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD WORK OUT A FIRM SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES AND PUT AN END TO THE PRESENT UNCERTAINTY.

C) ISTHMIAN TRANSIT; LOPEZ REPORTED THAT HE HAD ONCE MORE RE-ASSERTED COLOMBIAN RIGHTS TO TRANSIT AS PUT FORTH IN THE THOMPSON-URRUTIA TREATY. HE ALSO ENDORSED THE PANAMANIAN RIGHT TO DEAL DIRECTLY ON SUCH MATTERS WITH COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA. D) HE DISCUSSED THE TERMINATION OF THE AID PROGRAM IN COLOMBIA (SEE BELOW AND SEPTTEL). HE NOTED THAT COLOMBIA NOW HAD EXPORT EARNINGS OF A SIZE THAT OBTAIATED THE NEED FOR AID BILATERAL ASSISTANCE. HE STATED THAT OTHER NATIONS IN THE THIRD WORLD HAD MORE PRESSING NEEDS FOR AID FUNDS.

3. LOPEZ ALSO DESCRIBED THE PROJECTS FOR WHICH WORLD BANK AND INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ASSISTANCE IS EXPECTED, THE TOTAL FUNDING BEING IN EXCESS OF THREE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS.

4. IN HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE REMAINING AID PROJECTS, LOPEZ, APPARENTLY MISLED BY A FAULTY OR OUT OF DATE BRIEFING PAPER, LISTED PROGRAMS WITH AN OVERALL VALUE OF 39.9 MILLION DOLLARS. TWO OF THE PROGRAMS (ASSISTANCE TO COOPERATIVES-5 MILLION DOLLARS-AND A FISHERIES STUDY-2.2 MILLION DOLLARS) ARE PENDING SIGNATURE. TWO OTHER PROGRAMS IN HIS LIST (TEXTBOOKS-8 MILLION DOLLARS- AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-4.5MILLION) HAD EARLIER BEEN DROPPED. LOPEZ ALSO CITED A 1.2 MILLION CADASTRAL PROJECT WHICH IS UNKNOWN TO THE EMBASSY.

5. COMMENT: THE LOPEZ MESSAGE TO CONGRESS REFLECTS THE FORMER'S OBJECTIVE APPROACH TO COLOMBIA-US RELATIONS. HE AVOIDED RHETORIC AND CONVEYED THE IMPRESSION OF A FRIENDLY, IF SOMEWHAT ALTERED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO AMERICAN STATES. THE TONE OF CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH THE US THAT HAD PREVAILED UNTIL RECENTLY IS ABSENT; IT IS NOT, HOWEVER, REPLACED WITH ANY INDICATION OF CONFRONTATION.

6. ANALYSIS OF LOPEZ AID DISCUSSION BEING SENT SEPTTEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRAVEL REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOGOTA09745
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750351-0462
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751071/aaaaInc.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOPEZ REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON U.S. VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, CO, US, (LOPEZ MICHELSEN, ALFONSO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006